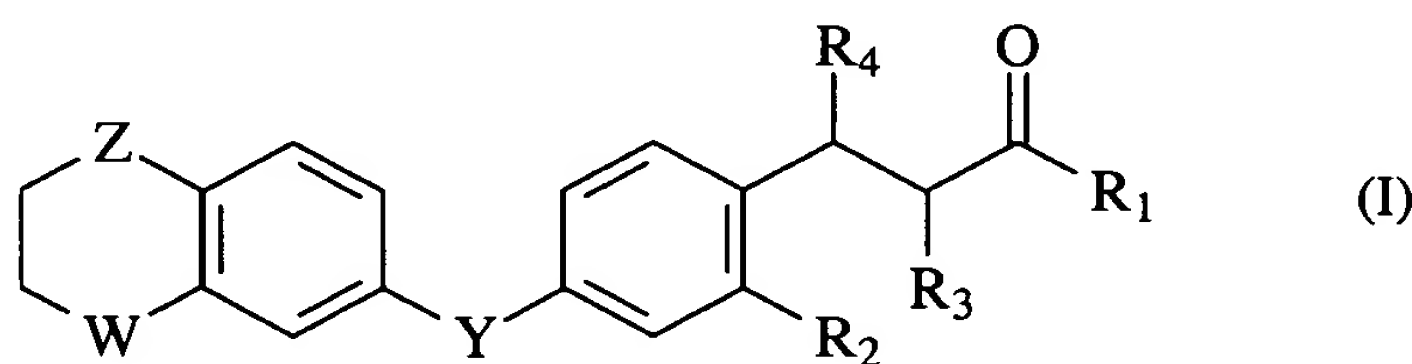


A 2

2. (Amended) A regime or regimen for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, for such period of time as required to elicit the desired response, a thus-effective amount of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



in which  $R_1$  is a hydrogen atom or an  $-OR_5$  radical, wherein  $R_5$  is as defined below;  $R_2$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring;  $Y$  is an oxygen atom, an  $S(O)_n$  radical or an  $N-R_6$  radical, wherein  $n$  and  $R_6$  are as defined below;  $Z$  and  $W$ , which may be identical or different, are each  $-CR_7R_8-$ ,  $-O-$  or  $-S(O)_m$ , wherein  $m$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are as defined below;  $R_5$  is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical;  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2;  $m$  is 0, 1 or 2; or salt thereof.

A 3

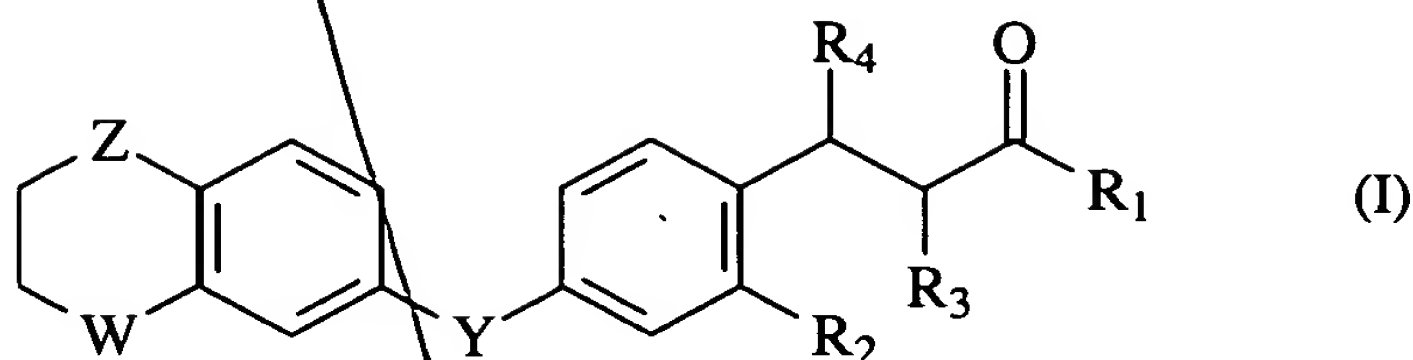
15. (Amended) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via enteral or parenteral route.

16. (Amended) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via topical or ocular route.

17. (Amended) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising coadministering to such individual an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy or  $\alpha$ -keto acid, or ion channel blocker.

18. (Amended) Tablets, capsules, syrup, suspension, solution, powder, granules, emulsion, lipid or polymeric microspheres, nanospheres or vesicles comprising an amount effective for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):

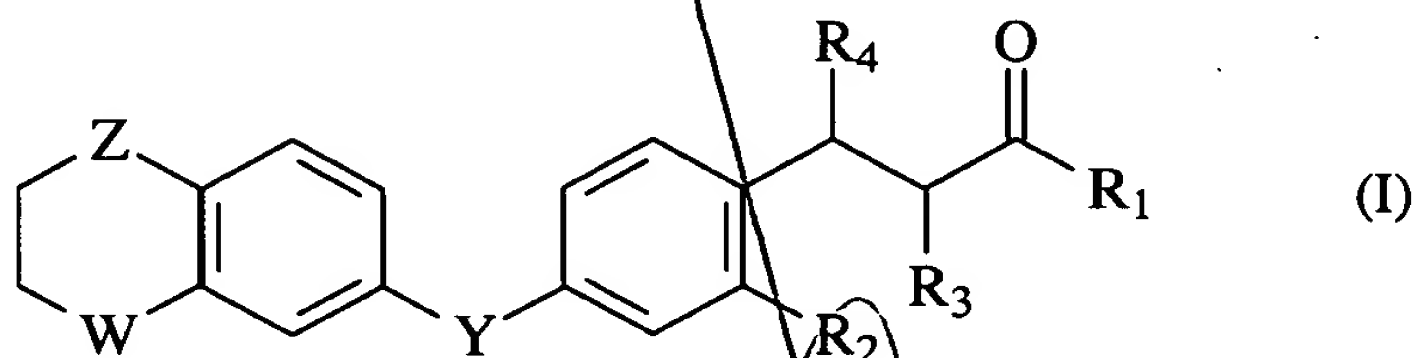
A 3



in which  $R_1$  is a hydrogen atom or an  $-OR_5$  radical, wherein  $R_5$  is as defined below;  $R_2$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring;  $Y$  is an oxygen atom, an  $S(O)_n$  radical or an  $N-R_6$  radical, wherein  $n$  and  $R_6$  are as defined below;  $Z$  and  $W$ , which may be identical or different, are each  $-CR_7R_8$ ,  $-O-$  or  $-S(O)_m$ , wherein  $m$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are as defined below;  $R_5$  is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical;  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2;  $m$  is 0, 1 or 2, or salt thereof, formulated into an enterally/parenterally administrable, cosmetically/pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier therefor.

19. (Amended) A salve, cream, emulsion, milk, ointment, powder, impregnated pad, solution, gel, spray, lotion, suspension, lipid or polymeric microspheres, nanospheres, vesicles, patch, hydrogel, soap or shampoo comprising an amount effective for treating

disorders of the barrier function of human skin, disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, photodermatoses or ulcers, and/or disorders of the metabolism of lipids, of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



in which  $R_1$  is a hydrogen atom or an  $-OR_5$  radical, wherein  $R_5$  is as defined below;  $R_2$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring;  $Y$  is an oxygen atom, an  $S(O)_n$  radical or an  $N-R_6$  radical, wherein  $n$  and  $R_6$  are as defined below;  $Z$  and  $W$ , which may be identical or different, are each  $-CR_7R_8-$ ,  $-O-$  or  $-S(O)_m$ , wherein  $m$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are as defined below;  $R_5$  is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical;  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical;  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2;  $m$  is 0, 1 or 2, or salt thereof, formulated into a topically applicable, cosmetically/pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier therefor.

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20. (Amended) The formulation as defined by Claim 18, further comprising an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy or  $\alpha$ -keto acid, or ion channel blocker.

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21. (Amended) The formulation as defined by Claim 19, further comprising an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy or  $\alpha$ -keto acid, or ion channel blocker.